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Our ref: 16314
Date: 28 April 2026

By email only: Planning Department, planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk

Thank you for requesting advice on this discharge of condition from Place Services' ecological advice service. This service provides advice to planning officers to inform Mid Sussex District Council planning decisions with regard to potential ecological impacts from development.

Application: DM/26/0862
Location: Land Adj. To Rocky Lane Haywards Heath West Sussex
Proposal: Discharge of Biodiversity Net Gain Condition 1 relating to planning application DM/25/1495

Thank you for consulting Place Services on the above discharge of condition for the Biodiversity Gain Condition

Biodiversity Gain Condition

This permission is considered to be one which will require the approval of a biodiversity gain plan before development is begun (which includes demolition) because none of the statutory exemptions or transitional arrangements are considered to apply.

Comments

We have reviewed the submitted documents for this application. This includes the following:

- Cover Letter (Avison Young Ltd)
- Biodiversity Gain Plan form
- Biodiversity Gain Plan Report (Adapt Environmental Ltd, March 2026)
- Allocation Agreement

We have also reviewed the submitted BNG documents provided at application stage, including the Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Calculation Tool.

It is indicated that [Paragraph 14\(2\) of Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 \(as amended\)](#) and [Articles 37C\(2\) and 37C\(4\) of The Town and Country Planning \(Development Management Procedure\) \(England\) Order 2015](#) sets out the requirements of the Biodiversity Gain Condition, which secures a 'Biodiversity Gain Plan'.

Therefore, in summary, the submission of a Biodiversity Gain Plan will consist of the following information:

- A Biodiversity Gain Plan form (Ideally using the Government's template: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-gain-plan>)
- The completed biodiversity metric - calculation tool (& condition assessment if using Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Calculation Tool)
- Completed pre-development and post-development habitat maps
- A Habitat management and monitoring plan (for [significant on-site enhancements](#) or off-site measures in land owned by the applicant)
- Legal agreement for monitoring and management of significant on-site enhancements or off-site measures in land owned by the applicant (if required by the LPA).

If off-site biodiversity units are proposed, then evidence of registration / allocation onto the [biodiversity gain site register](#) will be required (if using blue line boundary land or a separate off-site provider). If [Statutory Biodiversity Credits](#) from the Government are proposed, then proof of purchase will be required.

Therefore, based on the submitted documents, we are not satisfied that sufficient information due to the following reason:

- A revised Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Calculation Tool with off-site enhancements has not been submitted to support the application. This is necessary to demonstrate that off-site units are sufficient to ensure that a 10% measurable biodiversity net gain can be achieved.

We note that the off-site units have already been allocated to a Biodiversity Gain Site (BGS-290224001). Therefore, off-site units have been secured by the applicant and no long term monitoring requirement is expected for the proposed on-site measures.

Recommendation

We are unable to recommend the discharge of the Biodiversity Gain Condition until the additional information outlined above has been provided.

Please contact us if you have any queries in relation to this advice.

Yours sincerely,

Hamish Jackson ACIEEM BSc (Hons)

Senior Ecological Consultant

Place Services at Essex County Council



Place Services provide ecological advice on behalf of Mid Sussex District Council.

Please note:

This letter is advisory and should only be considered as the opinion formed by specialist staff in relation to this particular matter.

We are unable to respond directly to applicants/agents or other interested parties. Any additional information, queries or comments on this advice that the applicant/agent or other interested parties may have, must be directed to the Planning Officer at the relevant LPA, who will seek further advice from us where appropriate.